

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6 and 7 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 1-3, 6 and 7 on page 3 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent Publication No. 2005/0033853 (Jones) in view of United States Patent Publication No. 2002/0101857 (Heller). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

The cited portions of Jones and Heller do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 1. For example, the cited portions of Jones and Heller do not disclose a method comprising enabling a Point to Point Protocol (PPP) session for the LAN side device that is identified as the requesting device of the PPP session; and enabling a different Point to Point Protocol (PPP) session for the different LAN side device that is identified as the requesting device of the different PPP session, wherein the LAN side device is a LAN node in a LAN that is in communication with a router, and wherein the different LAN side device is at a different LAN node of the LAN, as in claim 1. Support for this claim amendment may be found in at least paragraphs [0008], [0009] and [0020] of Applicants' application.

The cited portions of Jones disclose a distributed network in which a plurality of routers (CPEs) are used to forward IP data along network paths and effect termination of the point-to-point (PPP) connections. *Jones*, paragraphs [0024] and [0025]. Nodes, such as source nodes and destination nodes, of the distributed network system are connected to the routers. *Jones*, paragraphs [0023] and [0025]. A CPE device, which may be a router or a switch, contains a module configured to transmit a PPPoE packet that includes a tag to uniquely identify the CPE device product model. *Jones*, paragraph [0028]. As shown in FIG. 2, a user's computer is connected to the CPE device. *Jones*, FIG. 2. The system may thus acquire identification information of the CPE that terminates a DSL connection at a subscriber residence for use in providing upgrades or product support. *Jones*, paragraphs [0004] and [0005]. The source and destination nodes are not CPEs as defined in Jones.

The cited portions of Heller disclose a system for achieving PPP mobility by utilizing a mobile internet protocol infrastructure. *Heller*, paragraph [0002]. CPE is present and is defined

as equipment located at the customer site that establishes a demarcation point between the customer and the service provider and may be a T1 line, wireless modem, or cable modem. *Heller*, paragraph [0014]. A CPE/LAC is assigned a mobile IP address and registers with a mobile IP home agent. *Heller*, paragraph [0030]. A PPP session is then initiated to the CPE/LAC. *Heller*, paragraph [0041]. If the user moves the CPE/LAC within range of a different base station, the CPE/LAC detects this movement and reregisters with the home agent. *Heller*, paragraph [0041]. The PPP session between the PC in communication with the CPE/LAC is unaffected by the movement from one base station to another and the PPP session is never disconnected. *Heller*, paragraph [0043].

In contrast to claim 1, the cited portions of Jones and Heller do not disclose a method comprising enabling a Point to Point Protocol (PPP) session for the LAN side device that is identified as the requesting device of the PPP session and enabling a different Point to Point Protocol (PPP) session for the different LAN side device that is identified as the requesting device of the different PPP session, wherein the LAN side device is a LAN node in a LAN that is in communication with a router, and wherein the different LAN side device is at a different LAN node of the LAN. The cited portions of Jones disclose identification of the router but not identification of the node or user computer. *Jones*, paragraphs [0024] and [0028]. Also, a different node or user computer is not identified as the requesting device of the different PPP session. A different PPP session is not disclosed in the cited portions of Jones. The router may be identified as the requesting device, but a LAN side device that is identified as the requesting device is not disclosed. *Jones*, paragraphs [0024] and [0028]. The cited portions of Heller also fail to disclose a different PPP session. The established PPP session between the personal computer and the L2TP network server is maintained and is never disconnected upon movement of the personal computer and CPE/LAC from one location to another. *Heller*, paragraphs [0042] and [0043]. A different LAN side device that is a different LAN node is not identified as the requesting device of the different PPP session as a different LAN node and a different PPP session are not disclosed. Further, identification of a different LAN side device is not disclosed as the mobile IP address is assigned to the CPE/LAC and not to the personal computer. *Heller*, paragraph [0041]. Even if an additional personal computer was employed, it would not be identified by the mobile IP address as the CPE/LAC would instead be identified thus preventing the original personal computer and the additional personal computer from being distinguished.

Therefore, the cited portions of Jones and Heller fail to disclose or teach the aforementioned elements of claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness does not exist based on the combination of Jones and Heller. Applicants respectfully request the rejection to claim 1 be withdrawn and submit that claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2, 3, 6 and 7 depend from claim 1, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Thus, claims 2, 3, 6 and 7 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

The dependent claims recite additional features not found in the cited portions of Jones and Heller. For example, claim 3 calls for maintaining information associating the LAN side device with the tag and the different LAN side device with the different tag. The cited portions of Jones disclose inclusion of a host-uniq tag in a PADI packet for CPE device identification. *Jones*, paragraph [0032]. However, the CPE disclosed in the cited portions of Jones include routers and switches and does not include nodes such as a source node and a destination node. *Jones*, paragraphs [0023] and [0025]. Therefore, the combination of Jones and Heller fails to disclose maintaining information associating the LAN side device with the tag. Hence, claim 3 is allowable for this additional reason.

Claims 8 and 12 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 8 and 12 on page 12 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of United States Patent Publication No. 2005/0166261 (Kortum). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

As stated previously with respect to claim 1, the cited portions of Jones do not disclose a method comprising enabling a Point to Point Protocol (PPP) session for the LAN side device that is identified as the requesting device of the PPP session and enabling a different Point to Point Protocol (PPP) session for the different LAN side device that is identified as the requesting device of the different PPP session, wherein the LAN side device is a LAN node in a LAN that is in communication with a router, and wherein the different LAN side device is at a different LAN node of the LAN. Incorporation of the cited portions of Kortum fails to disclose the aforementioned features.

The cited portions of Kortum disclose a system in which a user may employ a cable modem, an xDSL modem, or a different device capable of supporting execution of a PPPoE client. *Kortum*, paragraph [0013]. A network access request may be received to acquire specific information such as unique circuit identification number for an xDSL line, or a virtual path/virtual circuit identification associated with xDSL routing. *Kortum*, paragraph [0015]. The cited portions of Kortum fail to disclose enabling a Point to Point Protocol (PPP) session for the LAN side device that is identified as the requesting device of the PPP session and enabling a different Point to Point Protocol (PPP) session for the different LAN side device that is identified as the requesting device of the different PPP session, where the LAN side device is a LAN node in a LAN that is in communication with a router, and where the different LAN side device is at a different LAN node of the LAN, as in claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness does not exist based on the combination of the cited portions of Jones and Kortum. Hence, claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 8 and 12 depend from claim 1, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Hence, the combination of the cited portions of Jones and Kortum fails to disclose at least one element of claims 8 and 12. Accordingly, claims 8 and 12 are also allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 1.

Claim 10 is Allowable

The Office has rejected claim 10 on page 14 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of United States Patent Publication No. 2004/0004968 (Nassar). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As stated previously with respect to claim 1, the cited portions of Jones do not disclose a method comprising enabling a Point to Point Protocol (PPP) session for the LAN side device that is identified as the requesting device of the PPP session and enabling a different Point to Point Protocol (PPP) session for the different LAN side device that is identified as the requesting device of the different PPP session, wherein the LAN side device is a LAN node in a LAN that is in communication with a router, and wherein the different LAN side device is at a different LAN node of the LAN. Incorporation of the cited portions of Nassar fails to disclose the aforementioned features.

The cited portions of Nassar disclose a system in which a network address translation rule translates an address identifying a subscriber and associated with a first service provider into an address identifying the subscriber and associated with a second service provider for a particular application. *Nassar*, paragraph [0009]. A terminate message is provided in order to inform the policy server that the subscriber no longer desires access to a particular application. *Nassar*, paragraph [0059]. The cited portions of Nassar fail to disclose a method comprising enabling a Point to Point Protocol (PPP) session for the LAN side device that is identified as the requesting device of the PPP session and enabling a different Point to Point Protocol (PPP) session for the different LAN side device that is identified as the requesting device of the different PPP session, where the LAN side device is a LAN node in a LAN that is in communication with a router, and where the different LAN side device is at a different LAN node of the LAN, as in claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness does not exist based on the combination of the cited portions of Jones and Nassar. Hence, claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 10 depends from claim 1, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Hence, the combination of the cited portions of Jones and Nassar fails to disclose at least one element of claim 10. Accordingly, claim 10 is also allowable, at least by virtue of its dependence from claim 1.

Claim 11 is Allowable

The Office has rejected claim 11 on page 15 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of United States Patent Publication No. 2004/0059821 (Tang). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As stated previously with respect to claim 1, the cited portions of Jones do not disclose a method comprising enabling a Point to Point Protocol (PPP) session for the LAN side device that is identified as the requesting device of the PPP session and enabling a different Point to Point Protocol (PPP) session for the different LAN side device that is identified as the requesting device of the different PPP session, wherein the LAN side device is a LAN node in a LAN that is in communication with a router, and wherein the different LAN side device is at a different LAN node of the LAN. Incorporation of the cited portions of Tang fails to disclose the aforementioned features.

The cited portions of Tang disclose a system in which multiple PPP sessions are handled by providing an access device that is configured to store the public IP address of each PPP session corresponding to respective user terminals to avoid collision or other compatibility concerns. *Tang*, paragraph [0064]. Various user terminals are in communication with an access device that is in turn in communication with a remote server. *Tang*, FIG. 1. The cited portion of Tang does not disclose a LAN side device that is a LAN node in a LAN. The cited portions of Tang also do not disclose identification of a LAN side device as the requesting device of the PPP session, as in claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness does not exist based on the combination of the cited portions of Jones and Tang. Hence, claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 11 depends from claim 1, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Hence, the combination of the cited portions of Jones and Tang fails to disclose at least one element of claim 11. Accordingly, claim 11 is also allowable, at least by virtue of its dependence from claim 1.

Claim 11 is allowable for the further reason that the combination of Jones and Tang fails to disclose receiving the request via a connection type selected from the group consisting of an Ethernet Link, an 802.11(x) link, a Bluetooth link, a Universal Serial Bus Link, and a powerline networking link. The disclosed system in the cited portions of Tang reveals user terminals, an access device, a remote server, and a data network/internet. *Tang*, FIG. 1. The disclosed elements in the cited portions of Tang do not include any of the connection types of claim 11. Hence, claim 11 is allowable for this additional reason.

Claim 13 is Allowable

The Office has rejected claim 13 on page 16 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of United States Patent Publication No. 2004/0001496 (Yusko) and further in view of Kortum. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As stated previously with respect to claim 1, the cited portions of Jones and Kortum do not disclose a method comprising enabling a Point to Point Protocol (PPP) session for the LAN

side device that is identified as the requesting device of the PPP session and enabling a different Point to Point Protocol (PPP) session for the different LAN side device that is identified as the requesting device of the different PPP session, wherein the LAN side device is a LAN node in a LAN that is in communication with a router, and wherein the different LAN side device is at a different LAN node of the LAN. Incorporation of the cited portions of Yusko fails to disclose the aforementioned features.

The cited portions of Yusko disclose a PPP system in which a PPP protocol stack of a CPE automatically establishes a physical transport layer connection with one or more remote access concentrators. *Yusko*, paragraph [0020]. This arrangement is said to be beneficial over previous implementations in which CPEs required user input before establishing a physical connection over the network medium. *Yusko*, paragraph [0023]. In the disclosed system, the CPE appears to the network device as having a continuously established link, regardless of whether an actual physical connection exists. *Yusko*, paragraph [0023]. As such, the network device can transmit packets of data to the CPE without requiring the user to explicitly direct the CPE to establish a physical connection. *Yusko*, paragraph [0023]. A LAN side device that is a LAN node in a LAN is not disclosed. Further, identification of a LAN side device as the requesting device of the PPP session is not disclosed. Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness does not exist based on the combination of the cited portions of Jones, Yusko, and Kortum. Hence, claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 13 depends from claim 1, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Hence, the combination of the cited portions of Jones, Yusko and Kortum fails to disclose at least one element of claim 13. Accordingly, claim 13 is also allowable, at least by virtue of its dependence from claim 1.

Claims 14, 15, 17 and 20 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 14, 15, 17 and 20 on page 6 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Yusko. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

The cited portions of Jones and Yusko do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 14. For example, the cited portions of Jones and Yusko do not disclose a system wherein the subscriber LAN device is a LAN side device that is a LAN node in a LAN that is in communication with a router and is identified as the requesting device of the PPP session, and wherein the LAN engine is configured to recognize a different identification tag in a different packet included in a discovery stage of the different PPP session that identifies a different subscriber LAN device communicating the different packet via a different one of the plurality of remote devices and is a LAN side device that is a different LAN node in the LAN identified as the requesting device of the different PPP session, as recited in claim 14. Support for this claim amendment may be found in at least paragraphs [0008], [0009] and [0020] of Applicants' application.

The cited portions of Jones disclose identification of the router but not identification of the node or user computer. *Jones*, paragraphs [0024] and [0028]. Also, a different node or user computer is not identified as the requesting device of the different PPP session. A different PPP session is not disclosed in the cited portions of Jones. The router may be identified as the requesting device, but a LAN side device that is identified as the requesting device is not disclosed. *Jones*, paragraphs [0024] and [0028]. The cited portions of Yusko disclose establishment of an automatic physical connection between the CPE and the access concentrator upon receipt of certain packets from the network device. *Yusko*, paragraph [0028]. A different identification tag is not disclosed in the cited portions of Yusko. Further, identification of the different subscriber LAN device as the requesting device of the different PPP session is not disclosed. The cited portions of Yusko disclose automatic connection between the CPE and the access concentrator and do not disclose identification of a network device. *Yusko*, paragraph [0028]. Therefore, the cited portions of Jones and Yusko fail to disclose or teach the aforementioned elements of claim 14. Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness does not exist based on the combination of Jones and Yusko. Applicants respectfully request the rejection to claim 14 be withdrawn and submit that claim 14 is allowable.

Claims 15, 17 and 20 depend from claim 14, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Thus, claims 15, 17 and 20 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 14.

The dependent claims recite additional features not found in the cited portions of Jones and Yusko. For example, claim 20 calls for the system wherein the Broadband Remote Access Server is communicatively coupled to the LAN engine and operable to maintain information representing the subscriber LAN device. The cited portions of Yusko disclose an access concentrator that establishes a physical connection upon receipt of certain packets from the network device but does not disclose maintaining information representing the subscriber LAN device. Hence, claim 20 is allowable for this additional reason.

Claims 21, 22, 24, 29, 31 and 32 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 21, 22, 24, 29, 31 and 32 on page 10 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of United States Patent Publication No. 2003/0236916 (Adcox). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

The cited portions of Jones and Adcox do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 21. For example, the cited portions of Jones and Adcox do not disclose a method wherein the device and a different device are LAN nodes in a LAN that are in communication with a router, wherein the device is identified as the device communicating via the remote node and requesting a Point to Point Protocol (PPP) session, and wherein the different device is identified as the different device communicating via the remote node and requesting a different PPP session, as recited in claim 21. Support for this claim amendment may be found in at least paragraphs [0008], [0009] and [0020] of Applicants' application.

The cited portions of Jones disclose identification of the router but not identification of the node or user computer. *Jones*, paragraphs [0024] and [0028]. Also, a different node or user computer is not identified as the requesting device of the different PPP session. A different PPP session is not disclosed in the cited portions of Jones. The router may be identified as the requesting device, but a LAN side device that is identified as the requesting device is not disclosed. *Jones*, paragraphs [0024] and [0028]. The cited portions of Adcox disclose a media access control (MAC) translation system that includes a home network unit (HNU) that upon receiving an outgoing transmission from a host, that includes a host MAC layer address, accesses a MAC address table to determine a secondary MAC layer address. *Adcox*, paragraph [0004]. The secondary MAC layer address is associated with the host MAC layer address and the HNU

modifies the outgoing transmission to replace the host MAC layer address with the secondary MAC layer address. *Adcox*, paragraph [0004]. The secondary MAC layer address that is substituted is the MAC address of the HNU. *Adcox*, paragraph [0117]. Replacement of the MAC address with the MAC address of the HNU is done in order to prevent a security breach in which data can be stolen through MAC spoofing. *Adcox*, paragraph [0003]. The HNU maintains a constant Ethernet connection and subscriber PPPoE software on a subscriber's computer interprets this connection as a standard dial-up connection when accessing an ISP. *Adcox*, paragraph [0058].

The cited portions of *Adcox* do not disclose a device that is identified as the device communicating via the remote node and requesting a PPP session. The cited portions of *Adcox* disclose a HNU that is identified as the sending device and not the subscriber devices because the HNU actually replaces the MAC address of the sent packets with its own MAC address to prevent spoofing. *Adcox*, paragraphs [0003] and [0117]. Identification of a device that is a LAN node as the device requesting a PPP session is not disclosed. The HNU in the cited portions of *Adcox* maintains a constant Ethernet connection and simulates a dial up connection when a subscriber attempts to connect and the subscriber device is not identified as requesting a PPP session. Also, a different device identified as the device communicating via the remote node is not disclosed as the HNU replaces the MAC address with its own MAC address to prevent spoofing. *Adcox*, paragraphs [0003] and [0117]. Further, the different device is not identified as requesting a different PPP session as the HNU maintains a constant Ethernet connection and no identification of a different device is made. Therefore, the cited portions of *Jones* and *Adcox* fail to disclose or teach the aforementioned elements of claim 21. Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness does not exist based on the combination of *Jones* and *Adcox*. Applicants respectfully request the rejection to claim 21 be withdrawn and submit that claim 21 is allowable.

Claims 22, 24, 29, 31 and 32 depend from claim 21, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Thus, claims 22, 24, 29, 31 and 32 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 21.

Claim 25 is Allowable

The Office has rejected claim 25 on page 17 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Adcox in view of United States Patent Publication No. 2007/0159971 (Zhang). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As stated previously with respect to claim 21, the cited portions of Jones and Adcox do not disclose a method wherein the device and a different device are LAN nodes in a LAN that are in communication with a router, wherein the device is identified as the device communicating via the remote node and requesting a Point to Point Protocol (PPP) session, and wherein the different device is identified as communicating via the remote node and requesting a different PPP session. Incorporation of the cited portions of Zhang fails to disclose the aforementioned features.

The cited portions of Zhang disclose a broadband access method and system that solves the problem of IP address sharing among a plurality of DSLAMs and reduces difficulty in address planning and operation and maintenance cost. *Zhang*, paragraph [0042]. A central management facilitates provision of new services, upgrades of services, and attraction of additional subscribers. *Zhang*, paragraph [0042]. The system does not disclose a method wherein the device and a different device are LAN nodes in a LAN that are in communication with a router, wherein the device is identified as communicating via the remote node and requesting a Point to Point Protocol (PPP) session, and wherein the different device is identified as communicating via the remote node and requesting a different PPP session. Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness does not exist based on the combination of the cited portions of Jones, Adcox, and Zhang since all of the elements of claim 21 are not found in the combination of references. Hence, claim 21 is allowable.

Claim 25 depends from claim 21, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Hence, the combination of the cited portions of Jones, Adcox, and Zhang fails to disclose at least one element of claim 21. Accordingly, claim 25 is also allowable, at least by virtue of its dependence from claim 21.

Claim 25 is allowable for the additional reason that the cited portions of Jones, Adcox, and Zhang fail to disclose altering a cost of using the broadband link in response to recognizing an additional device communicating with the communication network node via the remote node.

The cited portions of Zhang disclose centralizing planning in order to reduce operation and maintenance costs. *Zhang*, paragraph [0042]. Simplification of operation and maintenance does not disclose altering a cost of using the broadband link in response to recognizing that an additional device is communicating via the remote node. Recognition of an additional device is not disclosed in the cited portions of Zhang. Hence, claim 25 is allowable for this additional reason.

Claim 26 is Allowable

The Office has rejected claim 26 on page 18 of the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Adcox in view of United States Patent Publication No. 2005/0015494 (Adamczyk). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As stated previously with respect to claim 21, the cited portions of Jones and Adcox do not disclose a method wherein the device and a different device are LAN nodes in a LAN that are in communication with a router, wherein the device is identified as the device communicating via the remote node and requesting a Point to Point Protocol (PPP) session, and wherein the different device is identified as the different device communicating via the remote node and requesting a different PPP session. Incorporation of the cited portions of Adamczyk fails to disclose the aforementioned features.

The cited portions of Adamczyk disclose a data architecture for communication networks that seeks to provide the establishment of priorities in bandwidth allocation among multiple service providers and applications in order to customize content delivery according to user and provider preferences. *Adamczyk*, paragraph [0007]. The system does not disclose a method wherein the device and a different device are LAN nodes in a LAN that are in communication with a router, wherein the device is identified as communicating via the remote node and requesting a Point to Point Protocol (PPP) session, and wherein the different device is identified as communicating via the remote node and requesting a different PPP session. Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness does not exist based on the combination of the cited portions of Jones, Adcox, and Adamczyk. Hence, claim 21 is allowable.

Claim 26 depends from claim 21, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Hence, the combination of the cited portions of Jones, Adcox, and Adamczyk fails to disclose at least one element of claim 21. Accordingly, claim 26 is also allowable, at least by virtue of its dependence from claim 21.

Claim 26 is allowable for the additional reason that the cited portions of Jones, Adcox, and Adamczyk fail to disclose considering the subscriber information in connection with generating a marketing offer presentable to the subscriber. The cited portions of Adamczyk disclose multiple services and applications such as voice service, Internet access, video service, and gaming service. *Zhang*, paragraph [0007]. Hence, claim 26 is allowable for this additional reason.

Claim 27 is Allowable

The Office has rejected claim 27 on page 19 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Adcox in view of United States Patent Publication No. 2004/0044789 (*Angel*). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As stated previously with respect to claim 21, the cited portions of Jones and Adcox do not disclose a method wherein the device and a different device are LAN nodes in a LAN that are in communication with a router, wherein the device is identified as communicating via the remote node and requesting a Point to Point Protocol (PPP) session, and wherein the different device is identified as communicating via the remote node and requesting a different PPP session. Incorporation of the cited portions of *Angel* fail to disclose the aforementioned features.

The cited portions of *Angel* disclose the provision of a dynamically variable quality of service across Internet access/transport networks. *Angel*, paragraph [0002]. Quality of service enforcement is provided in order to control user bandwidth consumption and to perform network planning and engineering. *Angel*, paragraph [0100]. The service does not disclose a method wherein the device and a different device are LAN nodes in a LAN that are in communication with a router, wherein the device is identified as communicating via the remote node and requesting a Point to Point Protocol (PPP) session, and wherein the different device is identified as communicating via the remote node and requesting a different PPP session. Applicants

respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness does not exist based on the combination of the cited portions of Jones, Adcox, and Angel. Hence, claim 21 is allowable.

Claim 27 depends from claim 21, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Hence, the combination of the cited portions of Jones, Adcox, and Angel fails to disclose at least one element of claim 21. Accordingly, claim 27 is also allowable, at least by virtue of its dependence from claim 21.

Claim 28 is Allowable

The Office has rejected claim 28 on page 20 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Adcox in view of United States Patent Publication No. 2005/0025061 (Pedersen). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As stated previously with respect to claim 21, the cited portions of Jones and Adcox do not disclose a method wherein the device and a different device are LAN nodes in a LAN that are in communication with a router, wherein the device is identified as communicating via the remote node and requesting a Point to Point Protocol (PPP) session, and wherein the different device is identified as communicating via the remote node and requesting a different PPP session. Incorporation of the cited portions of Pedersen fails to disclose the aforementioned features.

The cited portions of Pedersen disclose a system for testing the link between an end user and a broadband network. *Pedersen*, paragraph [0001]. A first node, second node, and intermediate node are provided in which the intermediate node sends a loop-back test message to the first end node according to a standard of the first transmission medium. *Pederson*, paragraph [0007]. The testing system does not disclose a method wherein the device and a different device are LAN nodes in a LAN that are in communication with a router, wherein the device is identified as communicating via the remote node and requesting a Point to Point Protocol (PPP) session, and wherein the different device is identified as communicating via the remote node and requesting a different PPP session. Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness does not exist based on the combination of the cited portions of Jones, Adcox, and Pedersen. Hence, claim 21 is allowable.

Claim 28 depends from claim 21, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Hence, the combination of the cited portions of Jones, Adcox, and Pedersen fails to disclose at least one element of claim 21. Accordingly, claim 28 is also allowable, at least by virtue of its dependence from claim 21.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have pointed out specific features of the claims not disclosed, suggested, or rendered obvious by the cited portions of the cited references as applied in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the pending claims.

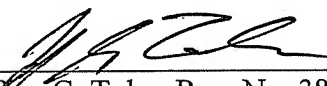
Any changes to the claims in this response, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if such a call would in any way facilitate allowance of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

10-10-2008
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